

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI) today announced Wisconsin will receive over \$1.7 million from the Department of Health and Human Services in senior nutrition assistance funding – including \$1.2 million for congregate nutrition and half a million dollars for home-delivered nutrition. The funding of nearly \$100 million under the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is part of investments that will prevent the loss of health coverage, promote prevention programs and lower health care spending for the nation.

"We are facing challenging economic times which require action and investments which can directly help people in our communities," said Congresswoman Moore. "The investments that we in Congress and President Obama have made will assist communities hit hard by rising food costs at a time when demand for food assistance is at an all-time high due to the economic downturn and the increasing number of older adults going hungry. These funds will provide meals to seniors in need of food, restore nutrition services that have been cut and restore jobs which may have been eliminated or reduced."

The Recovery Act provides \$65 million for congregate nutrition services provided at senior centers and other community sites, \$32 million for home delivered nutrition services delivered to frail elders at home and \$3 million for Native American nutrition programs. The state of Wisconsin will award the funds to organizations that provide nutrition services in their communities.

The Recovery Act funding comes as budget constraints have forced states to limit community-based services and critical Older Americans Act related services, including home-delivered meals. Across the country, organizations that serve senior citizens have scaled back services and limited the number of meals served per week.

The economic downturn has also made it difficult for many seniors to afford the right foods to keep themselves healthy and active. Additionally, many seniors may be too impaired to prepare nutritious meals for themselves. Without regular nutritious meals, the health of many older Americans declines; they become more susceptible to illness; their ability to manage their chronic diseases is reduced, and they may lose their ability to remain at home, independent in their community.

"There are countless seniors in our community who struggle on a daily basis with the dilemma of how they are going to eat and countless more who depend on the services provided by senior centers and home delivery programs for regular, healthy meals. With the current downturn and skyrocketing demand on community soup kitchens, now more than ever these programs are vital to our area, state and country's well-being," said Rep. Moore.

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